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Daily Highlights

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WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ As Security Council meeting on South Africa begins, Nelson Mandela, President of the African National Congress, and Djibo Ka, Foreign Minister of Senegal, on behalf of the Organization of African Unity, call for appointment of Special Representative to investigate situation in South Africa.

+ Secretary-General resumes separate meetings with leaders of Greek and Turkish communities in Cyprus, aimed at formulating specific recommendations for overcoming outstanding difficulties.

+ Iraq has met its obligations towards the resolutions of Security Council, so maintenance of the embargo has lost its meaning, observes Iraqi Foreign Minister in letter to Secretary-General.

+ Government of Iraq informs Secretary-General of its decision not to participate in sixth session of the Iraq-Kuwait Boundary Demarcation Commission, scheduled to be held between 15 and 24 July in New York.

+ Secretary-General issues updated Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for Horn of Africa, totalling $541 million for next six months.

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Nelson Mandela, President of the African National Congress (ANC), addressing this afternoon the opening meeting of the Security Council on the situation in South Africa, said the ANC had had no choice but to withdraw from negotiations with the South African authorities because of the Government's failure to "end the carnage" in the country. He reaffirmed however the ANC's commitment to the negotiation process embodied in the Convention for a Democratic South Africa (CODESA), and called for the appointment of a Special Representative to investigate the situation in South Africa, recommend measures to help end the violence and monitor the implementation of such measures.

Mr. Mandela indicated that the South-African Government attributed the violence to conflict between the ANC and the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) and

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insisted that the two parties enter into an agreement. He said the IFP was not an independent force with which the ANC could enter into such an agreement, since it was used as an instrument and surrogate of the Government, and was financed and armed by the Government.

The violence, like apartheid, he said, was a direct challenge to the Security Council and its role as a global protector of human rights. Failure "to act firmly and decisively could not but undermine its prestige and authority at a time when the Council and the United Nations as a whole are called upon to play an even more active role in the ordering of world affairs."

The Foreign Minister of Senegal, Djibo Ka, on behalf of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), opened the proceedings. Also proposing that a Special Representative of the Secretary-General be designated for South Africa, he said such a person would draw on the "open, faithful and honest cooperation of all parties concerned". He then invited the Council to take action on this proposal.

The system of apartheid, he said, spelled the negation of human dignity and had spawned structural violence, including the "most lascerating and reprehensible" act of violence - the Boipotang massacre. In the eyes of the OAU, the Government of South Africa must be made responsible if it wished to remain credible.

Mr. Ka concluded by saying that the Security Council was the best possible place for a solution to the crisis, and a United Nations presence in South Africa could help to consolidate measures to combat violence, restore a climate of security and help create conditions whereby the negotiating process of the Conference for a Democratic South Africa (CODESA) could be relaunched.

A number of speakers took the floor this afternoon, as the Security Council is expected to continue its debate on the situation in South Africa tomorrow.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today resumed in New York his separate meetings with the leaders of the Greek and Turkish communities in Cyprus, according to the Secretary-General's spokesman. The first round of the present proximity talks - started 18 June at United Nations headquarters - had been interrupted due to Secretary-General's absence from New York. The talks are held in the framework of Security Council resolution 750 of 10 April, which asked the Secretary-General to take up intensive efforts "to complete a set of ideas during May and June 1992" and "to submit a full report to the Council of his efforts by July 1992 at the latest, and to make specific recommendations for overcoming any outstanding difficulties".

In a Presidential statement adopted on Monday, 13 July, prior to the resumption of the talks, the Council members called on both leaders - President Vassiliou and M. Rauf Denktash - to be ready to take the necessary decisions "to reach agreement on each of the issues as dealt with in the set

of ideas as an integrated whole on an overall framework agreement". They also noted with satisfaction that the discussions focused on the issues of territorial adjustments, displaced persons and other issues which are part of the set of ideas on a overall framework agreement.

The present round of meetings will continue for "such reasonable duration as may be necessary" to complete the work.

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Iraq has met its obligations towards the resolutions of the Security Council. Therefore, the maintenance of the embargo against that country has lost its meaning, observed Iraqi Foreign Minister Ahmad Hussein in a letter dated 11 July to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali.

The Iraqi Foreign Minister further noted that there is no provision for the embargo, "either explicitly or implicitly", in the Charter of the United Nations or the resolutions of the Security Council", and "its continuation destroys the legal basis of the Security Council resolutions and accords Iraq, if it should wish, the right to act towards those resolutions on a basis of ability and opportunity and not on the basis of a persuasive legal obligation".

The Iraqi Foreign Minister also stressed that his country had undertaken to comply with the Security Council resolutions - including the destruction of all its prohibited weapons and the return of Kowait to the state "desired by those who so zealously promoted the Security Council resolutions". However, he said, the embargo imposed on Iraq since 6 August 1990 "had remained as it was, unchanged from the initial format", and that "numerous restrictions and complexities" imposed on his country's capability to export its oil prevented the people of Iraq from benefiting from "the revenues from the quantity of petroleum exported over six months for the purchase of food and medicine".

The Foreign Minister of Iraq also suggested that the Security Council allow Iraq to export its petroleum "in a normal and regular manner,...so that its people may have its humanitarian due".

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The Government of Iraq informed Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali of its decision not to participate in the sixth session of the Iraq-Kuwait Boundary Demarcation Commission, scheduled to take place between 15 and 24 July in New York.

In a letter dated 12 July and addressed to the Secretary General, Iraqi Foreign Minister Ahmad Hussein said that "it is clear...that the views of Iraq will not be heard in the Commission and that it will not provide an opportunity for a hearing regardless of any efforts...to create an objective and impartial atmosphere for its work".

The Iraqi Foreign Minister also charged the Commission of conducting its work in a manner detrimental to his country's interests, "because a prior and

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biased decision has been taken to harm Iraq's interests and deny its historic rights on the part of those countries that planned the Commission's work".

A spokesman for the Secretary-General told correspondents today that, according to the operating rules of procedure, the Commission could conduct its business without the Iraqi presence, and "proceed with the planned agenda, which includes the matter of off-shore boundary". However, indicated the spokesman, the matter of Iraqi absence from the meeting was expected to be taken up.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today issued an updated Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for the Horn of Africa, totalling $541 million for the next six months.

It is clear, he said, that special efforts were called for to contain population movements and prevent the problems of one country from spilling over to neighbours. The Secretary-General stressed the importance of a regional approach "which seeks to pool the human and financial resources of United Nations agencies and our partners in a holistic effort to assist people where they are located, regardless of whether they are refugees, returnees, displaced persons, drought-affected, or simply local residents who also need assistance".

The Secretary-General had launched a Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for the Horn of Africa last January. The appeal requested $621 million for the most urgent requirements of millions of men, women and children at serious risk. $576 million had been raised on that occasion.

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